



## Flathead National Forest

## Media Release

June 14, 2005

Contact: Denise Germann  
406-758-5252  
406-249-1714 cell

### **Flathead National Forest Requesting Multiparty Monitoring Participants**

The Flathead National Forest is encouraging participants from the 2004 Robert-Wedge Collaborative Process and others to participate in a multiparty monitoring project as it relates to the Robert and Wedge Post-Fire Project. The Flathead Forestry Project (FFP) has volunteered to facilitate the multiparty monitoring project and will host a meeting on Monday, June 20, 5:30pm at the Montana Logging Association building at 2224 MT Highway 35.

The “Flathead and Kootenai National Forest Rehabilitation Act of 2003” that led to the 2004 Robert-Wedge Collaborative process also requires the creation of a multiparty group to monitor the performance and effectiveness of projects conducted under the Act.

Flathead National Forest Planning Staff Officer Rob Carlin said, “Multiparty monitoring is a valuable tool in federal land management and we hope that a diverse group of community members will get involved.” The multiparty monitoring process is designed to promote mutual learning as participants work together to better understand project effects and impacts.

A decision on the Robert-Wedge Post-Fire Project was completed in December 2004 that allows for salvage of approximately 3000 acres yielding approximately 23 million board feet of products from the project area north of Columbia Falls. The decision also allows for tree planting on about 2400 acres and other rehabilitation work. Prior to spring break up conditions some salvage logs were removed and continued salvage and rehabilitation work is currently underway. The project is being litigated by two local environmental organizations.

Anyone interested in participating in the multiparty monitoring should contact Flathead National Forest Public Affairs Officer Denise Germann at 758-5252.